

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02073 150020Z
ACTION OES-06

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R 142030Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3852
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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STADIS//////////

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, CI, AR
SUBJ: R/V HERO CLEARANCE REQUEST, MAY-JULY 1977

REF: A. STATE 53170; B. SANTIAGO 1725; C. SANTIAGO 7292

1. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION OFFICIALS ROUTINELY VISIT EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICER WHEN IN SANTIAGO. PROBLEMS SUCH AS R/V CLEARANCE ARE DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS DURING THESE VISITS. REFTEL B, HOWEVER, RESULTED FROM EMBASSY'S EFFORTS TO IRON OUT A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS CONCERNING R/V CLEARANCE REQUESTS. A VISIT WITH CHILEAN NAVAL AUTHORITIES WAS PROGRAMMED UPON RECEIPT OF THE ORIGINAL R/V HERO MAY-JULY 1977 CLEARANCE REQUEST BUT THE VISIT WAS DELAYED PENDING THE ARRIVAL IN SANTIAGO OF DR. IAN DALZIEL. CRUISE OBJECTIVES WERE DISCUSSED WITH DR. DALZIEL AND HE WAS INFORMED OF THE INTENDED VISIT TO THE HYDROGRANHIC INSTITUTE (HI). HE WAS TOLD THAT AN EMBASSY CABLE WOULD BE FORTH-COMING ON THE RESULTS OF THE HI VISIT. NO DOUBT HE RELAYED THIS INFORMATION TO NSF, THEREBY INSPIRING THE NSF POLAR REQUEST REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 1 OF REFTEL A. BY VISITING THE HI, EMBASSY WAS ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE FUTURE POSSIBILITIES FOR RESEARCH IN THE RESTRICTED "CANALS" AREA, ATTEMPTING TO REMOVE OBSTACLES IN THE NORMAL CLEARANCE PROCESS, AND ATTEMPTING

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TO DETERMINE WHETHER R/V HERO CRUISE 77-4, IN PARTICULAR, WAS A POSSIBILITY. WE REGRET THAT CIRCUMSTANCES AND TIMING OF REFTEL B MAY HAVE RESULTED IN CONFUSION.

2. ALL CLEARANCE REQUESTS FOR RESEARCH CRUISES ARE FORWARDED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S OFFICE OF SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS (OSPA) BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE. THE NOTE IS THEN SENT BY OSPA TO

THE HI FOR CLEARANCE. ONCE HI CLEARS THE CRUISE, HI INFORMS OSPA AND OSPA INFORMS THE EMBASSY BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE. OSPA IS ONLY A CHANNEL IN THE CLEARANCE PROCESS AND OFTEN CAUSES DELAYS BY LOSING REQUESTS, FAILING TO FORWARD REQUESTS TO ACTION AGENCIES, AND FORGETTING TO INFORM EMBASSY WHEN CLEARANCE IS AUTHORIZED. EMBASSY INTENDS NOW TO ATTEMPT TO RECTIFY THESE FAILURES THROUGH DISCUSSIONS WITH AN OSPA SUPERVISOR WHO HAS HELPED IN THE PAST.

3. THE QUALITY OF NAVIGATIONAL CHARTS IN THE "CANALS" IS A VARIABLE WHICH MUST BE ASSESSED EACH TIME A CLEARANCE IS REQUESTED. THE HI HAS BEEN WORKING IN THIS AREA FOR SOME TIME IN AN EFFORT TO UPGRADE THE QUALITY OF EXISTING CHARTS. IN THE OPINION OF THE LOCAL IAGS REPRESENTATIVE MAJOR CHARLES GEISEWITE, THEY STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO. PROOF OF THIS IS THAT THE NAVY "BOTTOMED OUT" ONE OF ITS OWN SHIPS IN THIS AREA LAST YEAR. MOREOVER, NAVAL ACTIVITY IN THE CANALS IS ALSO A VARIABLE WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED WITH EACH REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE.

4. PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTTEL B REFERRED TO REFTTEL C..
SORRY.

5. REGARDING PARAGRAPH 5 OF REFTTEL A, THE DESCRIPTION OF SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES AND RESEARCH METHODS PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE CLEARANCE REQUEST WAS MORE THAN ADEQUATE. EMBASSY APPRECIATES THE CONSISTENTLY EXCELLENT SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE MATTER OF CLEARANCES. DETAILED CRUISE TRACKS FOR ALL CLEARANCE REQUESTS SUCH AS THOSE PROVIDED FOR R/V HERO CRUISES 77-3 AND 77-4 WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FUTURE; OTHERWISE, THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT HAS LEFT NOTHING TO BE DESIRED. THE COMPLAINT REGISTERED BY SIEVERS IS HIS OWN AND IN NO WAY REFLECTS THE THINKING OF THE EMBASSY.

6. THE HI NOTIFIED EMBASSY BY TELEPHONE MARCH 11 THAT INFORMAL APPROVAL HAD BEEN GIVEN TO R/V HERO CRUISES 77-3 AND 77-4. SOME "RESTRICTIONS" HAD BEEN PLACED ON 77-4, HOWEVER. THE HI HAD MAILED THE CRUISE TRACKS AND LIST OF RESTRICTIONS TO THE EMBASSY BUT THESE HAVE YET TO ARRIVE. A SEPARATE MESSAGE WILL FOLLOW DETAILING THESE RESTRICTIONS.
POPPER

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